

Appl. No. 10/040,012  
Amdt. dated August 18, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 18, 2005

PATENT

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-3 Cancelled.

4. (New) A method for assessing server and network of servers capacity, summarized through two integer values representing Local Node Value (LNV) and Composite Node Value (CNV), respectively, the method comprising:

calculating the LNV of a server as an integer value through a combination of measured counters at the same point in time, the LNV reflecting the capacity of the server to receive work loads; and,

calculating the CNV of a beginning server as an integer value through a combination of the LNVs of a sub-network of servers that begins with the beginning server, the calculation of the CNV including the LNV of the beginning server, the CNV reflecting the capacity of the sub-network beginning with the beginning server to collectively receive work-loads.

5. (New) A method in accordance with claim 4, further comprising obtaining a plurality of characteristics or counters at a specific point in time that are combined through correlation matrixes and weighted sums to produce the two integer values for the same point of time, the correlation matrixes and weighted sums being updated over a period of time to reflect historical changes over the period of time.